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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

OF THE

MEHARRY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Central Tennessee College,

Held in

THOMPSON CHAPEL,

NASHVILLE, TENN.,

Friday Evening, Feb. 22d, 1878.

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# CALENDAR, 1878 AND 1879.

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*First Session begins September 2nd ; ends December 20th, 1878.*

*Second Session begins January 2nd, and ends May 22nd, 1879.*

## — MEDICAL DEPARTMENT. —

*The Third Annual Session begins September 30th, 1878, and ends February 21st, 1879.*



# PROCEEDINGS.

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Thompson Chapel was crowded on the evening of the 22nd inst., to witness the graduation of three young men from the Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College. Fully half an hour before the time announced for the opening, every seat was occupied, and it was with difficulty that even standing room could be obtained. Among those present and seated on the platform, besides the Faculty and members of the Medical Class, were Rev. Gilbert Haven, one of the Bishops of the M. E. Church, and President of the Board of Trustees of Central Tennessee College, Rev. Dr. Phillips, of the Nashville Institute, Prof. Chase, of Fisk University, Drs. Sneed and Tucker, of this city, Rev. H. W. Key, of Murfreesboro', Rev. B. B. Manson, of Lebanon, Rev. J. G. Thompson, of Springfield, and Revs. L. A. Rudisill and Calvin Pickett, of Nashville.

Rev. Dr. Braden, the President of the institution, conducted the exercises, which were opened with an invocation by Rev. H. W. Key, and the rendering of an anthem, with fine effect, by the "Tennesseans: "

"Joy to the world."

The first exercise on the programme was a "Thesis" on Malaria, by Lorenzo Dow Key, of West Tennessee, the full text of which is as follows:

The word malaria was derived from two Latin words, which mean "bad air." It is supposed that the air in certain portions of this and other countries is filled with germs that are formed by the decomposition of animal

and vegetable matters, and it is thought by a large number of writers upon this subject that persons who inhabit these districts take into their system during the act of respiration these little germs which enter the circulation and produce what is known as malarial diseases. Dr. Salisbury, of the Charity Hospital of the Medical College of Cleveland, Ohio, claims that these fevers are caused by the introduction into the system of cells or spores emanating from certain plants, which he calls ague plants, and in no instance are they found where this disease does not exist; and, for an experiment, cakes of the surface of the soil where this malaria prevails were taken five miles away, to a high, hilly district, where a case of this fever was never known to occur, and placed on the sill of an open second-story window, opening into the sleeping apartment of two young men, and it was found in a few days after that both the young men were attacked with intermittent fever, while none of the other members of the family became affected.

It is true that this disease may exist in any part of the United States, but it is found to be most prevalent in the Southern and Western States, and especially in the marshy districts, and I think I will be safe in saying that we, as physicians, will find the treatment of this affection to be the largest part of our work in the practice of medicine in the South; therefore we should give this subject special thought and study, for it is only he who thoroughly un-

derstands the disease that can successfully treat it.

It is said by all who have given this subject any thought, that this miasma is movable by the wind, and can be taken and carried by it to places where it does not naturally occur. It has also been found that places infected by malaria are more dangerous at night than in the day-time. Whether the poison be more abundantly generated or condensed at night, or whether the body is more susceptible of its influence then, is not positively known, but it is certainly true that it is more active and pernicious during the dark hours. Therefore it is advisable for persons who travel these districts to do so in the day-time, and persons who sleep in the open air at night in such places are very apt to have one or more attacks of intermittent fever as a result. Those who reside in these parts must, as far as possible, avoid the night air; go to bed early, and while it is safe in most parts of the country to rise early, in these poisonous districts this precept becomes an unsafe one.

It is also true that malaria loves the ground, and that its tendency is downward. Whether this be from its specific gravity or from some attraction of the earth's surface, is not distinctly understood. Yet it is so. And persons who occupy the lower rooms of a building are more susceptible to an attack of malarial diseases than those who occupy the upper rooms of the same building.

There are numerous traits of this affection of which time will not allow me to speak, but I most heartily recommend to you the reading of the different writers upon the subject.

This disease presents itself in three principal forms, all agreeing in the nature of their cause and in the periodicity of their attacks: First we have

intermittent fever, which is the most common grade of the disease, and which is more frequently met with than any other variety. This form of the disease generally occurs in three types: 1st. The quotidian—that is, when the paroxysms occur every day. 2nd. The tertian—when the attack comes on the third day. 3rd. The quartan—when the affection shows itself every fourth day. The second form of this disease is known as remittent or bilious fever. The third as pernicious or congestive fever. The symptoms, in the first stage, are commonly known as the cold or chilly. The cold sensation comes on, often accompanied with shivering, chattering of teeth, loss of appetite, sometimes vomiting and headache, depression of spirits and drowsiness. Next comes the hot stage, or fever. In this stage the warmth gradually returns, shivering ceases, the face becomes flushed, then excessive heat of body, mouth becomes dry, great thirst, violent headache and pulse quick and full. This stage may last from one to eighteen hours. This is followed by the third, or sweating, stage. This also comes on gradually, the face first becoming moist, then the trunk and limbs, while the other symptoms subside, and the patient may fall asleep, and on waking is found to be much relieved. For a long time this disease swept its way through the land striking down a vast number of persons who fell victims to its attack, and though a variety of medicines were tried as remedies, none were found to produce the desired effect until there was, providentially, discovered, away out in the Andes mountains of South America, a tree, the bark of which was found to contain properties having power to control this troublesome affection, and happily, too, was this grand remedy accepted in the practice of medicine. The



Indians of Peru called it the Kina tree, from which we get the name quinia, but it is not certain that they knew the use of its bark until the arrival of the Spaniards. It seemed to have been imported to Europe in 1639 by the Countess Del. Cinchon, wife of the Viceroy of Peru, who by the use of this bark had been cured of a severe attack of intermittent fever, and upon this account it was named cinchona. From thence the fame of the cinchona bark spread to most parts of the world. But the discovery of the alkaloids, upon which its properties chiefly depend, and which are now being so extensively used, constitutes a new era in the history of medicine, and did not take place until the beginning of the present century. Its chief active principles are two alkaloids, Quinia and Cinchona, which are the only specifics in the treatment of malarial diseases, and I think I will be safe in saying that had not this great remedy been discovered, which has both the power to allay and prevent the attack of malarial fever, that the Mississippi valley, which is so largely infected with this miasma, could never have been successfully populated. There has been recently discovered in Australia a lofty tree—the *Eucalyptus globulus*—which is said to possess remarkable prophylactic properties, and it is claimed that when cultivated in malarial districts it will prevent the attack of the disease, and that preparations from it will cure malaria when it has been acquired. This tree has been successfully cultivated in Algiers and California, and is noted for the rapidity of its growth—sometimes reaching to the height of twenty feet in a single year. But it still remains to be proven whether experience will justify its claims as an anti-periodic or not. Picrate of ammonium has also lately been used as a

substitute for quinine, and several physicians report that it has proved highly successfully in their practice.

After another song by the “Tennesseans,” the next speaker on the programme, John C. Halfacre, delivered an address on the “Physician’s Qualifications and Responsibilities,” of which the following is a brief synopsis:

The qualified physician must understand the physical signs; he must also be able to tell the different temperatures that accompany different diseases; he must be able to diagnose cases and to give a differential diagnosis of every disease, and especially those diseases which bear a close relationship to each other; he should also be able to give a prognosis of different diseases.

I will now explain the terms I have made use of in the foregoing statements: 1st. Symptoms and physical signs together contribute to diagnosis, and diagnosis means a knowledge of the character of the morbid process or state in given cases—the answer to the question, What is the matter?

Prognosis is the anticipation of the progress and results or termination of the disease. The essential elements of prognosis are a knowledge of the cause or causes of the disease present, and of the condition of the organs, and of the general vital state or degree of vital force of the system. Prognosis depends, therefore, upon diagnosis, but is governed, in a majority of cases, by those rational symptoms which indicate the organic energy of the patient and the kind and rate of change that his system is undergoing.

Rational symptoms and physical signs are distinguished thus: A rational symptom is a sign of disease which is obvious to the patient himself, or the practitioner, without close inspection; a physical sign is one determined by examination into the

properties and material conditions of the organs of the body, as by palpitation, auscultation and percussion.

Symptoms guide us by physiological inference, and physical signs by anatomical necessity. A physician without a correct knowledge of these, can not be successful.

Suppose, for instance, a person should be stricken down with epilepsy, and the physician not having a thorough knowledge of the different symptoms of the disease, should treat it as apoplexy; or, again, suppose a person should be stricken down with pneumonia, and the physician having a limited knowledge of the difference of the symptoms between pneumonia and pleurisy, should treat the case as one of pleurisy. By such a treatment, in either case, he would be more than liable to lose his case.

Hence you see that a physician, in order to become skillful in his profession, must pass through a regular course of instruction.

The song, "Beautiful Flag," was next rendered, and John Silas Bass delivered an address on "Our Aim as Physicians." The speaker said, in substance:

"It is the duty as well as the privilege of every individual, as he becomes capable of entering upon the duties of life, to seek that sphere in which he can be most useful. If he chooses farming, let him enter it feeling his responsibilities, and do all he can to excel. If he is to be a mechanic, let him do his best; if a lawyer, let him go to his work with zeal and determination; if to teach, or to preach the Gospel, or to practice medicine, let him go deeply impressed with his duties and obligations. The teacher must take care of the mind, the preacher the soul, and the physician the body, and it requires great preparation for either of these professions, and especially on the part

of the colored student, who enters the profession of medicine; because it is a new field lately opened to our people.

We know that we are not equal in skill to those who have had many years of practice, but we do know that we have laid the foundation, upon which we intend to build, until we shall become masters of our profession. We know there are many mountains to be climbed, and many obstacles to overcome, but we will ever strive to surmount them, and we believe that in our effort to accomplish this great work, we have the sympathy of all true physicians. We shall ever bear in mind that our work is one which involves the preservation of our race, upon which we hope never to bring reproach or disgrace. Gentlemen, we are entering into a grand field of effort, which I think stands next to the ministry. While it is the work of the ministry to teach men the laws of God, which may be the means of saving their souls, it is our aim to instruct men in the laws of Hygiene, which, if heeded, will secure to them the highest bodily enjoyment, and great mental vigor. We shall teach them that their bodies are the temples of the living God, and should be kept free from disease. We shall teach that there is no need of so much sickness, and show that many diseases are brought on by violating the laws of their being. The question is often asked: Why do more colored people die in a given period than whites? Simply because they more frequently violate the laws of health. Why are they more liable to violate these laws? Because they have been deprived of men of their race capable of teaching these laws, and urging the necessity of observing them. I know that there is a class who say that we will gradually die out, but the Medical department of the Central Tennessee College is engaged



in preparing physicians who, in a few years, will prove that assertion to be false, by decreasing the mortality, which is now so great among our people. Again, some say that the science of medicine is too deep and complicated for our race to master; but we intend to establish the fact that out of our race are coming men to occupy positions equal to those held by men of any other race."

At its conclusion, "Only a little Flower" was sung as a solo, by Miss Lizzie Ewing, with fine effect.

Dr. G. W. Hubbard then delivered an address to the Medical Class on

#### PRACTICAL HYGIENE.

It was formerly supposed that disease and all the ills that flesh is heir to, resulted from the displeasure of the gods.

We frequently hear people speak of the mysterious dispensations of providence, and it is true that many of God's natural laws are at present imperfectly understood, but from what has already been discovered concerning them, we have reasons for hoping that those things that now appear so dark will sooner or later be clearly understood.

When God's moral laws are violated there is hope of forgiveness by complying with certain conditions, and we are not held accountable provided we have earnestly and faithfully endeavored to ascertain his will; but when his natural laws have been broken, no matter whether it has been done ignorantly or wilfully, punishment is sure to follow.

Probably not one person in a hundred dies a purely natural death; we are all committing suicide, slowly it is true, but none the less surely.

If this is true how important it is that we should have a proper understanding of God's unwritten laws, as they have such an important bearing

on our usefulness, happiness and success in this life.

As this knowledge is more universally diffused the average length of human life increases.

During the last two hundred years, although the population of the city of London has increased six-fold, the death rate has diminished nearly one half. Mankind may never again reach the advanced age attained by the antediluvians, yet we may reasonably expect that a largely increased number of our race will reach the age of three score years and ten, man's allotted time on earth.

Small-pox was formerly regarded as one of the most dreaded and fatal of diseases, but since the discovery of vaccination by Jenner, in the latter part of the 18th century, it no longer terrifies the world by its ravages, and no city or community has any reasonable excuse for allowing it to prevail as an epidemic in their midst.

The Asiatic Cholera, that from its native home on the Ganges has passed around the entire Globe, numbering its victims by millions, by proper sanitary precautions can be almost entirely prevented from obtaining a foothold on our shores.

Hygiene is the art of preserving health; taken in its widest sense it signifies rules for perfect culture of mind and body.

Dr. Parkes, an English author, says: "The body is affected by every mental and moral action, the mind is profoundly influenced by bodily conditions. For a perfect system of hygiene, we must combine the knowledge of the physician, the school-master and the priest, and must train the body, the intellect and the moral soul in a perfect and balanced order.

Then if our knowledge were exact and our means of application adequate, we should see the human being in his

perfect beauty as Providence perhaps intended him to be. It is undoubtedly true that we can even now choose between health and disease, not perhaps individually, for the sins of our fathers may be visited upon us, or the customs of our life and the chains of our civilization and social customs may gall us, or even our fellow-men may deny us health, or the knowledge which leads to health.

But as a rule man holds his own destiny, and can choose between good and evil; and as time unrolls the scheme of the world, it is not too much to hope that the choice will be for good. I propose to speak to-night, more particularly concerning those things that directly concern the colored people of this country.

Among the important and interesting problems now attracting the attention of our philanthropists and students of social science, is the future destiny of the colored population of the United States.

I am not now speaking of their religious, political, or educational advancement, but of that on which to a greater or less extent depends their physical condition and future well being.

It has been said that they were not fitted for a state of freedom, and that instead of increasing as they had previously done while in bondage, they would rapidly diminish, and, like the red man, finally disappear from the face of the earth.

The rate of mortality of the colored population of the Southern States, deserves our careful attention.

The following table is taken from the second annual report of the Board of Health of this city.

# DEATH-RATE PER THOUSAND ANNUALLY.

	White.	Colored.
Nashville, Tenn.....	26.31	45.35
Memphis, ".....	18.06	40.06
Chattanooga, ".....	18.60	29.05
Knoxville, ".....	18.	31.20
Richmond, Va.....	17.36	28.13
District of Columbia....	19.22	47.60
Baltimore, Md.....	19.80	34.42
Mobile, Ala.....	12.15	23.17
Selma, ".....	14.28	18.88
New Orleans, La.....	25.45	39.69
Charleston, S. C.....	27.24	41.94
Average.....	19.68	34.05

We will now endeavor to point out, some of the causes that produce this great and alarming mortality.

It is evident that it is not owing to any inherent weakness in their constitutions, or lack of adaptability to the climate of the Southern States.

From 1840 to 1850 the rate of increase was 23 per cent.

From 1850 to 1860 22 per cent, and from 1860 to 1870 although exposed to the vicissitudes of war, and experiencing the great and sudden change from one condition to another, and suddenly thrown on their own resources without previous warning or preparation, notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances the increase was ten per cent.

In the recent report of the U. S. Surgeon-General, for the year ending June 30, 1877, we find that the average number of colored troops in the service was 2075, and the number of deaths 32, and that while the death rate from wounds, accidents and injuries was greater among the colored than the white troops, yet the death rate from disease among the colored was only 7 per thousand, while among the whites it was 8 per thousand. The rations sanitary regulations, medical attendance and general surroundings being about



the same in each case, this comparison is a fair and impartial one.

The increase or decrease of population can be determined only by a correct birth rate as well as death rate. As far as my knowledge extends there is no city in the South where this is done, and until the census of 1880 is taken this question can not be definitely settled.

In my own private practice in 150 families, representing 600 persons, during the past 18 months, in this city and vicinity, as nearly as I can ascertain, there have been 41 births and 31 deaths; the birth rate being 45.55 per thousand, the death rate 34.44 per thousand, representing an annual increase of a little more than 1 per cent. It will also be seen that the birth rate in these families is slightly greater than the death rate of the entire colored population of Nashville.

If, as has already been shown, the death rate is not owing to constitutional weakness or climate, the question arises to what cause or causes can it be attributed?

The first cause that I shall mention is impure water. Many families are unable to pay the water tax, and are obliged to depend on springs and wells for water to be used for cooking and drinking. In a limestone formation, like that of Nashville, there are numerous fissures in the rocks through which the water will flow for a long distance under ground, and it is not difficult for the fluids from stables, vaults and back alleys to find their way through these subterranean water courses, and reappear in the springs and wells.

During the prevalence of cholera in this city in 1873, it was noticed that in one of the suburbs of Nashville, now known as New Bethel, that the fatality was unusually great. Prof. J. W. Dolbear, who investigated the subject,

ascertained that the victims were those that used water from a certain spring, and the source of this spring was found to be in an old burying place for a contraband camp during the war, and the water was loaded with organic matter, that in this case seemed either to produce the disease, or to render the system peculiarly susceptible to the attack of the epidemic then prevailing.

Many families live in cellars or basements, that are dark, damp and unhealthy.

We sometimes see elegant mansions occupied by wealthy people, who enjoy all of the comforts of life, but they seem to forget the welfare of their servants, and the quarters allotted to their use are unfit for human habitations.

Stables located on filthy alleys are used for dwellings by the poor class, and several families are crowded into one small room, into which pure air can find its way only through the openings in the broken windows, and these partially closed with old hats and cast-off clothing.

It is well known that sunlight is necessary for the proper development of both animals and plants, yet we rarely find a house that is properly lighted, and if there are windows they are usually closed with tight wooden shutters, or covered with thick curtains, and there prevails only a dim twilight or total darkness.

It is no uncommon thing to find persons who sleep with their heads covered both in summer and winter, and the constant re-breathing of impure air produces blood-poisoning, and a long train of diseases that are produced by it.

Many suffer from an insufficient amount of sleep; this is partly the result of habit and in some degree due to the force of circumstances.

In some of the churches the people do not assemble until nine o'clock,

and the meetings, especially during seasons of revivals, frequently do not close until nearly midnight. These is repeated night after night for weeks in succession, the meetings being held in crowded, ill ventilated rooms, and usually accompanied with considerable religious excitement.

This course of action, if long followed, is sure to result in nervous and bodily exhaustion that renders them susceptible to the influence of diseases of different kinds.

There is a great lack of variety of food which is so essential to the perfect preservation of health; in many families the standard diet is corn bread, bacon and coffee.

The poor are obliged to use articles for food of inferior quality, and on account of cheapness, purchase unripe or decayed vegetables.

When money is abundant, there is often a season of feasting; when it is scarce, the other extreme follows.

Irregular hours for eating, and especially hearty meals taken late at night, have a tendency to derange the functions of the digestive organs, and thus produce disease.

The use of intoxicating drinks and tobacco is not confined to any particular race, and the colored people are by no means free from these pernicious habits, and I think I shall be justified in saying that they spend more money for whiskey, tobacco and snuff than they do for the support of the Gospel and the education of their children.

The physician is well acquainted with the long catalogue of diseases that are either produced or aggravated by the use of stimulants and narcotics, and it is safe to predict that if their use is not abandoned they will prove a deadly curse to the colored race, and hurry thousands to untimely graves. Unfortunately the evil consequences do not end with the lives of those who

fall victims to intemperance, for they frequently leave behind them children who inherit weakened and diseased constitutions and uncontrollable appetites for liquor.

Lack of proper medical attendance is a prolific cause of sickness and death. It has been estimated that fully one-third of the time and care of the medical profession in this city is a donation to the public. Notwithstanding this gratuitous service, many suffer for want of medical attention, and when the physician is called in it is frequently too late for him to be of any service.

Having spoken of some of the most prolific causes of sickness and death, I will now endeavor to present some practical measures which, if adopted, would result in greatly diminishing the present death rate. An abundant supply of pure water should be furnished by the city, and arrangements made by which the poor can obtain it, either free of cost or at a nominal rate. A severe penalty should be imposed on property holders who persist in renting houses that are unfit for human occupants. The colored people should, as soon as possible, endeavor to procure homes of their own. By industry, frugality and temperance it will not be difficult for them to do this. Building lots in the vicinity of this city can be purchased for one hundred dollars, and by paying twenty-five dollars in advance, time would be given for paying the remainder. Seventy-five dollars will build a better house than many now occupy; so it will be seen that one hundred dollars will secure a comfortable home that could be improved and beautified as time and circumstances permitted. Some may reply that times are hard, wages low, they can not find work to do, and it is only with the greatest effort that they are able to procure food and clothing for



their families. In all of our large cities the supply of labor far exceeds the demand. Thousands annually leave comfortable homes in the country to seek their fortunes in our crowded cities. The idle, the vicious and the licentious naturally seek the city, where they hope to live in idleness, hide their crimes, gratify their passions without restraint and enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Our cities contain too many colored people, and a portion of them ought to seek homes in the country as soon as possible. If there is no suitable employment for them in this State let them follow Horace Greeley's advice and "Go West."

In Kansas and Texas there are millions of acres of land as fertile as ever the sun shone upon that can be obtained free by settling upon them, according to the Homestead Act, or can be bought from one to five dollars per acre, and it only needs the strong arm and determined will to make the now solitary places "rejoice and blossom as the rose." Experience shows that the death rate in the country is much less than in the city, and it is not difficult to discover why it is so, as many of the causes of mortality just mentioned are not found in the country, and the next census will doubtless show a considerable increase of colored population in the rural districts, whatever may be the condition of those who reside in the cities.

Much can be accomplished by disseminating information among the people concerning the laws of health and the importance of obeying them. Children in our public schools and higher institutions of learning should be carefully instructed concerning these things, both by precept and example. There has been instituted in this College what is known as "A School for Nurses," in which instruction is

given in anatomy, physiology, hygiene, the use of simple medicines, nursing the sick and preparing suitable food for them.

Well educated colored physicians are needed throughout the South, and a most promising field of usefulness is open before them. They know the habits, peculiarities and superstitions of their own people, and their warnings and admonition will be listened to and treated with respect, when the advice of others would be regarded with suspicion, and be but little heeded. We hope in years to come to send out from this institution a constantly increasing number of carefully trained and well prepared young men, who will not only be animated with a desire to succeed in their profession, but also inspired with the purpose of being useful to their own race, and, like our common Master, spend their lives going about doing good, and may they at last hear it said of them "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

The "Tennesseans" then sang "The Old Log Cabin in the Lane."

At this point Bishop Haven, though greatly indisposed, was introduced and spoke as follows:

"I don't make long speeches. This is a very good place for a sick man to be, and I feel that if I were to experience a relapse, I should not suffer for want of medical attention. Physicians are a necessity; in fact, we can't get along without them. I had my speech prepared for this occasion, but since coming here, I find that I am behind the age. When I first came to Nashville, eleven years ago, I went through an untenanted barracks—the gun factory—in which were assembled several hundred ill-clad, dirty, dusky urchins, with blue-back spelling books in their hands, striving to learn the twenty-six

characters of the alphabet. In neither building did I find a boy or girl that was able to perform a sum in addition, or answer a question in grammar. But times have changed, and the enterprises which were begun in those old buildings have developed into two great institutions, Fisk University and Central Tennessee College. When we look at the roots of a tree, we notice that they strike deep into the ground, and the botanist tells us that it is the roots, which absorb the nutriment of the soil, that gives life and vigor to every branch and leaf. This institution is taking root, and every time I visit here, I find that it is striking deeper into the soil of public confidence, and its branches spreading abroad. Departments for the pursuit of every profession have been organized, and while you have not the facilities and appurtenances of older institutions, you can congratulate yourselves on your present advantages. With reference to these young men who are to graduate, I desire their prosperity, and hope they will labor to achieve success. The profession you have chosen is an honorable one, and one that will enable you to be of great service to your race. In the early part of your career you may be snubbed, and receive the shrugging of the cold shoulder from others of your profession, but if you prove yourselves men, in time you will gain their respect."

After another piece of music, Dr. Braden delivered the following

ADDRESS:

A few years ago a student in this school inquired about the facilities for a medical education within the reach of colored young men. No medical school in the Mississippi valley invited them into its halls or offered them the advantages of its curriculum. To have any of the many excellent medical schools of the country opened to the

colored people seemed impossible, under existing circumstances. The friends in the North had hardly dreamed of the necessity of such a school for the colored people, especially those who were so recently in bondage.

The matter was canvassed among the friends of the three colored schools in Nashville in hopes of uniting them in establishing a medical school, but it was not successful. Feeling that the circumstances demanded action in this matter, a class in anatomy and physiology was organized in 1875 under the direction of an experienced and skillful physician of this city.

At this time Mr. Samuel Meharry and his brother, Mr. Hugh Meharry, of Indiana, generously offered the means which enabled the trustees to put into operation this department, and the same generosity has enabled us to continue it. These Christian gentlemen have begun a noble work by their benevolence, and will no doubt continue their fostering care of this department, which bears their name, and thus increase its efficiency and extend its usefulness in the future.

In October, 1876, the medical department was formally opened under the supervision of Dr. G. W. Hubbard, a graduate of the medical department of the Nashville University, with such assistance from the physicians of the city as the class demanded. There were eleven in the class, one of whom, Jas. M. Jamison, graduated at the close of the session. On the 2nd of October, 1877, the second session began. During the session eighteen young men have been connected with the class, and three received at its close the usual degrees.

For the future of the school there is great hope. The increase in the number of students has been healthful.



I am here to-night to say a few things to the graduates of the school who are so soon to enter upon their active duties as physicians among their people.

*Gentlemen of the Class of 1878:*

I congratulate you to-night. 1st. Because you are recognized as men. You were born slaves, the recognized property of others; your bodies, intellects, moral natures were under the absolute control, or guidance of your owners. To-night you are your own; no fetter binds your limbs, no human law manacles the intellect, no earthly master has the keeping of your conscience. You stand on the broad platform of a common responsibility with your fellow-citizens of this great Republic. You share equally with them the rights, privileges and honors placed within the reach of any, by the Constitution of this mighty nation. To you is open the door to intellectual improvement. You may enter the fields of knowledge, gather the rich harvests, if you will, and enjoy the fruits of your own labor. You, like men, are accountable to no earthly master for the improvement of the privileges and opportunities God has so wonderfully thrust upon you. To him, who is the Judge of quick and dead, the common Father and Benefactor of the human race you will give account. I hail you, then, as men. 2nd. I congratulate you because you have had the privilege of acquiring knowledge. Your friends have erected school buildings, furnished them, supplied teachers, and thus offered to you the opportunity of mental culture. No insurmountable obstacle lies between you and the highest possible intellectual attainment. The fields of mathematics, classical literature, natural science, law, medicine, philosophy, theology, are all open and invite you to enter. 3rd. I congratulate you that

you have not neglected your advantages, you have toiled earnestly to avail yourselves of these privileges, you have been industrious, economical, and have, as the result of your own industry, almost without pecuniary aid, outside of your own earnings, availed yourselves of the advantages of this institution. I commend the industry, economy, perseverance, and courage, which enabled you to press on, overcoming all obstacles. Of your poverty, you have not been ashamed. Others of your classmates in the beginning of your schooldays, have fallen out by the way, some because of real inability to meet the expenses of attending school, and other causes beyond their control. Some, I fear, from the desire to dress better than they could afford with their limited means, have used their money for display, and such expensive pleasures as have made them financially and intellectually poor. I heartily commend your independence, your perseverance, your fearlessness of poverty, daring to wear the seedy coat, the faded hat, and other carefully preserved garments, that the mind might be clothed, and yourselves prepared to be useful to society, and a blessing to the world. Your position to-night is the trumpet voice of encouragement to poor young men, who have the desire to secure a thorough education. Your example tells them they need not wait for others, if they will use the powers God has given. 4th. I congratulate you on having finished the prescribed course of study, and having passed a thoroughly satisfactory examination. You have endured to the end. There were times when you felt, perhaps, that you could not go on, but prayer and faith conquered, and you have reached the termination of your schooldays, and the end of the prescribed course of study; as in the final settle-



## MEHARRY.

Interesting Commencement Exercises of  
this Famous Medical College.Address of Prof. E. L. Gregory—  
Diplomas Awarded—Sketch of  
the Institution.

The seventh annual commencement of the Meharry Medical College was held in the chapel of the Tennessee Central College last night. Some time before the hour announced for the opening exercises the audience began to assemble and soon the room was jammed with a very respectable crowd. While the colored element predominated, there were many representative white citizens present. Promptly at 7:30 P. M., the graduating class marched into the hall and took seats on the platform, while a beautiful march was played by Miss Mamie Braden, the accomplished pianist of this institution.

The exercises were opened with an anthem by the college choir.

Rev. Calvin Pickett offered a short but fervent prayer, and asked that the blessings of the Almighty be upon the young men who were about to take up the duties of the great medical profession, and that they might reflect credit on their alma mater, and spread light and intelligence in the dark recesses of this great land.

After an anthem well sung by the choir, Dr. Braden called upon F. R. Roben, the salutatorian, who delivered a very instructive talk on the "Circulatory System." He extended a hearty welcome to the audience, and proceeded to describe the system minutely, which showed an accurate knowledge of the heart and its tributaries.

Misses Moore and Watson sang the duet "May-bell Flowers," to the great delight of the audience, who manifested their pleasure by a round of applause.

C. K. Wright, of Atlanta, Ga., the class valedictorian, delivered a very creditable essay on "Variola." After an exhaustive history of this scourge, he proceeded to give the symptoms. He called attention to the fact of it being rare, but unless carefully managed becoming an epidemic which spread desolation and death to all classes of society. A very comprehensive line of treatment was given and the preventative power of vaccination was strongly endorsed. Some startling facts were mentioned and his surprise that every man, woman and child did not have vaccination performed, so they might save themselves and protect their neighbors.

The young gentleman returned thanks to the faculty for their kind and instructive teachings, and bade the audience a sad farewell.

A laughable medley was given by a male quartette, and though they were heartily encouraged, the programme would not allow a response.

E. L. Gregory, Esq., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, entertained the audience, in behalf of the faculty, with the following instructive address:

## PROF. GREGORY'S ADDRESS.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, in one of her novels says, "No man ever did or ever can know as much as a young man just graduated from college thinks he knows." But," she adds, "a very short experience of life suffices to disabuse his mind of this self-sufficiency."

You young men are just embarking in one of the most responsible of the learned professions. Into your hands is to be entrusted the all important matter of human life.

And as to the manner of the discharge of your trust you will be held accountable not only to man but to God.

Unlike the lawyer, you cannot appeal to a higher court for a correction of errors, nor can you obtain another trial on the discovery of new evidence in your case.

Heretofore in your studies you have been guided by an able and efficient corps of professors, who have pointed out the difficulties that lay in your path. But from this time forward you are cast upon your own resources, and your own knowledge, skill and good sense must be your guide.

The field in which your labors are about to begin was originally enveloped in almost total darkness, and even now but a small scope of its territory is cleared of all obstacles.

In the whole world of science I know of no branch that is deserving of greater praise and higher admiration than that of the medical profession. In its advance upon nature's citadel, it has been met with the most stubborn resistance by the combined powers of ignorance, superstition, and even the law.

The alchemist—the doctor's ally and friend—was for ages regarded with distrust. His fiery alchemical experiments and his seemingly supernatural and almost divine cures and hatred of both rulers and masses in the days of the earlier history of our civilization.

His acquaintance with the laws of, and his familiarity with nature, caused him to view many of the opinions then deemed sacred, as frivolous and unsafe. His knowledge and practices were alike deemed dangerous, and his life and liberty were often imperiled or lost.

Yet, in spite of persecution, in spite of public opinion; in short, in spite of every obstacle that has been thrown in the path, there have been in every age some grand minds that have risen above the times in which they lived, and by their keen researches into the hidden mysteries of nature, have discovered some new fact on which they, or some subsequent votary of the science, have laid down principles which were to become the guide of their brethren in future generations.

For ages this strife continued between ignorance and superstition upon the one hand, and progressive thought and knowledge on the other, until the great masses of the people saw the error of their rulers, and were taught to see that God's laws were written not alone in the mystic text of tradition, or through the agency of inspiration, but were transcribed in a bold hand on every page of the great book of nature. But for me to endeavor to trace the history of the struggle between progressive reason and fixed opinion would be too great a task for this occasion and, perhaps, foreign to its purpose. The progress that has been made by your profession in the last century alone has been wonderful. Why it was but a short time ago that the world clung to its belief in natural born physicians—the seventh son of the seventh son—those who cure by the laying on of hands, spiritualistic healers, etc., still succeeded to a no small degree in gulling the credulous. In fact, the science of surgery is but a few hundred years removed from barbarism; and not over two hundred years ago the practice in the treatment of incised wounds was, instead of bringing the edges of the wound together for the purpose of union by first intention, as is now done, it was opened and filled with acid balsams, sugars, leaden tubes, etc., to force it into a painful suppuration, which was considered necessary to a cure.

There were, too, the blood-suckers. In the army they were usually the drummers. Their skill consisted in applying their mouths to the wound and continuing to suck and spit blood as long as it continued to flow, and then they would chew up a bit of paper wad and insert it in the wound.

Numerous equally ridiculous practices might be recalled, the uses of which have but just passed out of the memory of our old practitioners. But all these absurdities have passed or are rapidly passing away, and the votaries of the medical science are becoming bold in thought and action. They have interpreted the text, "the wages of sin are death," to mean that sin is a violation of nature's or God's laws; that this violation is followed by disease; that disease produces death, and you who are to hold yourselves out to the world as apostles of this creed must be possessed of sufficient art to prove your faith by your works.

I have said that the law has been a formidable stumbling block to the medical profession, and it still continues that impediment even in this enlightened age, by affixing a most infamous punishment to the so-called crime of grave robbing. But this is now done, I think, chiefly in deference to the demands of those who hold the sacredness of human clay above the cause of science. But, I imagine, it is now difficult to find a legislator, lawyer, judge or juror who, when calling to his aid a surgeon in case of injury, would not prefer the services of one who has had the advantage of instruction in the dissecting room—even if he did steal his subject—to that of one whose knowledge of anatomy was purely theoretical and derived solely from books and plates. But in this present day and age the principal difficulties in the North of your profession have disappeared. And now with all the fetters of the mind removed, with the gates of knowledge thrown open, and an opportunity given to almost every person in the civilized world to walk in at them and feast on the stores within—a wide field opens before him who enters within to the pursuit of any of the sciences as a life's calling—but more especially I think to him who chooses the medical profession.

It is perhaps true that it has to contend with more sources of errors than any of the others. And it should be the object of each of its votaries to add to the present fund of knowledge and aid in removing from the profession the difficulties that weigh so heavily upon it. Probably no field of science unless it be that of electricity, furnishes such opportunities for the investigation of mind as does that which you have chosen. It must be admitted that in America more than in the Old World the physician mixes other callings with that of his own. This, among other reasons, led Sidney Smith nearly half a century ago to ask contemptuously: "What does the world yet owe to the American physician or surgeon?" The implied delinquency was untrue when propounded, but at this day the answer may unhesitatingly be given that the world

owes to the American profession the first introduction and application of the anesthetic agency which has done more for surgery than all other discoveries and inventions combined. American surgery for the last forty years leaves a record worthy to stand beside that of England or any other country.

There are diseases among us which have so far baffled the skill of our most profound minds, but for which, no one seriously doubts, there is, or may be, a panacea.

Into this field you can enter with all the energy of your young blood and the fertility of active and well-stored minds. An admiring and sympathizing community will lend you their encouragement and will hail with delight your every element of success.

You are all natives or residents of this Southern country; some of you live in the vicinities infested by that hydra-headed monster, yellow fever, whose vital part no medicinal blade has yet been found keen enough to reach; and some of you, by making this the object of your especial study, may yet prove to be the "St. George" who is to rid our fair land of this dread enemy.

Here, then, is an inviting field for investigation. What more can the ambitious young mind need to urge it to effort than the thought that a great discovery in the calling he has chosen will hand his name down through all ages as a scientist and benefactor of mankind. No profession offers the incentive for study and investigation presented in yours, and especially to you who are among the first of your race to enter into this great work. What is not possible to those of you who possess your time and talents to devote research into the darkness that surrounds so many departments of your profession?

It is, I assume, a part of my task to offer you suggestive advice as to your future and professional conduct. And, first of all, let me say, be men—true, faithful and honorable men. If you make mistakes—and what human will not—let them be honest, intelligent mistakes, and not awkward, ignorant blunders. The saying, "Be sure you are right and then go ahead," has become axiomatic, and I suggest to you that you adopt it as the guide for your professional life. Be studious, prompt and energetic.

I have told you in the lecture-room that you are not compelled to answer calls for your professional services, but my advice to you is that you never refuse to go, no matter how doubtful the chances for compensation. For, by so doing you will require that all important element of a physician's success—experience. Be cautious and discreet. Never lose sight of the fact that your errors may involve the loss of human life. Keep ever in view the credit and good name of your alma mater. Remember that the world still regards the effort to make professional men of your race as an experiment, and do not fail to do everything in your power to show it, that it is no longer an experiment, but is an established fact. Persist in your efforts, continue unflinchingly in your studies and prove by actual demonstration that the intellectual inferiority heretofore ascribed to your people is but mistaken prejudice, and let your labors among them be directed to their improvement and advancement physically, mentally and intellectually.

Dr. Hubbard, Dean of the Faculty, presented the class to President Braden, who delivered diplomas to the following graduates:

Lee Roy Fearn, Huntsville, Ala.; Zetulon Wallace McMorris, Newburg, S. C.; Isaiah Eugene Mulvan, New Orleans, La.; Franklin Reese Roney, Mobile, Ala.; Cea Kenchen Wright, Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Braden stated that the professions were crowded in the lower stories—they honor the foundations—satisfied to remain where they start, but he knew there was room in the upper stories, that genius is born, but work is always successful.

He advised them to make this a beginning in their upward course in their chosen profession and be God-fearing men.

Representative McIlwain was called upon and made a ringing speech, which was very kindly received.

Senator Agee briefly responded to the warm call and said that he was always ready to speak to the race, that he would be glad to tell the colored people of his county that he saw five young colored gentlemen graduate in medicine in Nashville with high honors, and would even remind the white people of this same fact.

Doxology by audience and benediction by Prof. Chase concluded these interesting exercises.

## HISTORY.

Near the close of the war many of the colored people crowded into Nashville. Their friends helped them in their poverty, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Schools were also opened for their instruction, in the churches and other buildings hastily prepared for this purpose. In one of these church schools originated the Central Tennessee College. The primary instruction given at first, was confined to the primer and spelling-book. This was all that was needed. The school grew in numbers, other buildings were secured. A charter was obtained in 1866 with the present name, and in 1867 the Freedmen's Aid Society took the school under its fostering care, and has supported it till the present. As the pupils advanced in their studies, and were expected to prepare to teach, the Normal Department was organized, because it became a necessity; then followed for similar reasons the theological, preparatory and collegiate courses of study. All did not feel that their life-work was to be confined either to teaching or preaching, and began to inquire whether it was possible for them to have a medical training, as the difficulty of securing proper medical attention for the colored was very great, and the mortality among them alarming, the necessity for educated physicians became apparent. In 1875, about ten years after the opening of the primary school, the Medical Department was organized, and in 1879, through the munificence of Rev. Samuel Meharry and his brothers, Rev. A. Meharry, D. D., and Hugh Meharry, Esq., the beautiful and commodious four-story brick building now occupied by the Meharry Medical Department was erected. This school has conferred the degree of M. D. on twenty-three young men. Nearly all of them are engaged in the successful practice of their profession. They have been kindly received by the white physicians, and their uniform testimony is that these colored physicians, sent out by this school, give evidence of very thorough and intelligent preparation for their work—the practice of medicine. This is the only thoroughly organized medical school in the Mississippi valley, south of the Ohio river, where colored persons can pursue this study, and when it is remembered that in this same territory there are over four millions of colored people, there is great reason that this school should be rendered most efficient, by liberal endowment and thorough equipment for its important work.

The building is constructed of brick, forty feet wide, and sixty feet in length, and four stories in height, including the basement. The ground floor will be used as a laboratory for practical work in Chemistry; the second story for office, museum and dwelling apartments; the third contains a lecture room of sufficient size to accommodate one hundred students, recitation room and cabinet of Materia Medica; the fourth story is fitted up for dormitories.

An additional building has been erected for practical demonstrations in Anatomy. Graduates of the schools are practicing in seven different States and have been kindly received by the medical profession everywhere.

## SOCIETY.

## DENTISTS DINING.

Enjoyable Luncheon Last Night to the  
State Dental Association.

## CORSETS.

**RALLIE**

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ment of the destinies of men, he that endureth to the end shall receive the reward, so in the affairs of this life, he that labors to the end shall win. 5th. I congratulate you on your entrance on the duties for which you have been preparing. You have looked at your people, ignorant of the laws of their physical being, suffering and dying as a consequence of this ignorance, and have endeavored to prepare yourselves to aid in lifting this dark cloud, and alleviate the sufferings of the people. You are now after years of preparation, to enter upon your life's work, you will soon be called to minister to the sick in comfortable homes and those of poverty and wretchedness; your skill is to be tried, your love for the people you serve will be sorely tested. Sickness will not always occur to suit your convenience. In winter and summer, rain and shine, by day and by night, early and late, you may be called to visit those in need of your service. You are to have the opportunity to test your interest in humanity, and I congratulate you on the faith I have, that you will be equal to the task before you.

Your school-days are about to end but not your student life. The field you have chosen to enter is a wide one, with plenty of room for investigation. Know what is in your books; as soon as practicable get the best and latest works on medicine, read the best medical journal you can find. Be married to your books, and dare also to think for yourselves. Study your patients, notice carefully the various forms of disease, the effect of every prescription, the surroundings of the sick, whether comfortable or otherwise, what influences tend to improve and what to injure your patient. Remember that internal remedies will not remove the dirt on the skin, or tonics overcome the destructive influ-

ence of bad ventilation, dampness and filthiness. Get your mind filled with the ideas of healthful surroundings for your patients, and labor to secure everywhere, observance of the laws that will prevent disease as well as to heal the sick. Make it your business, as it is strictly professional, to prevent suffering.

You will meet here and there gentlemen of the profession who have had superior advantages to yourself; hold on to them with the desire to be benefitted by their experience, by their superior skill and enlarged culture. The interests of both races are so united, that conflict between them will be disastrous to both. You can not go to Africa as a people, and it is doubtful whether that would be best. Your home is here. You are no carpet-baggers. Generations in the future will find your people here. Cultivate for those generations the friendliest relations with your professional brethren, and others of the Anglo-saxon race, and by your diligence in study, modesty in deportment, fidelity and kindness to your patients, and your earnest efforts to promote the highest welfare of your people, command the respect of the entire community.

Without the Divine blessings no work can succeed, and as you will need this guidance in all your labor, we commend to you to seek the wisdom which is from above. You will need it to comfort the sick, cheer the dying and console the mourner. Be pure in heart; be faithful to your professional duties; be studious of the interests of all, rich or poor, committed to your care. Be anxiously careful about your own morals, and your fidelity to the religious vows which, I rejoice to say, you have all taken. Going out thus to your life-work, you can but prove a blessing to the people you serve, win

honor from men, and receive Heaven's choicest benedictions.

He then presented diplomas to the graduates, L. D. Key, John Silas Bass and John C. Halfacre.

The following paper which had been acted upon, by the medical class at a previous meeting was presented and read by Mr. H. T. Noel.

Whereas through the benevolence of Mr. Meharry, the trustees have been enabled to organize a Medical Department in connection with this institution, where young men of our race might be educated in the medical profession, and be instrumental in alleviating suffering and pain; and whereas the work of the department has been successfully conducted to the second annual commencement, when three of our number have graduated. Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we express our unfeigned thanks to Mr. Meharry, for his generous gifts, also to the Faculty, Trustees, and Dr. G. W. Hubbard and his associate professors for their invaluable instruction.

*Resolved*, That we hail this Medical Department, as one of the distinguishing ornaments, and fruits of Christian philanthropy unknown to the wisdom of Pagan times, and that we pledge ourselves to present its claims to the public, and shall strive to return at the opening of the next session and renew our studies.

*Resolved*, that we heartily congratulate the graduating class, upon the high standing they attained in their last examination, which evinced their qualifications for the medical profession, and that we wish them unbounded success in their practice.

J. P. ANDREWS, }  
J. E. WHITE, } Committee.  
B. E. SCRUGGS, }

H. T. NOEL, Secretary.

W. P. T. JONES, Chairman.

At this juncture the Tennesseans, rendered the anthem "Hail us ye free" which was rapturously encored. W. A. Knight, Esq., County Trustee, presented John C. Halfacre, through Dr. Braden, with "Flint's Practice in Medicine." The exercise which were highly interesting throughout, were closed with the doxology and benediction.

#### COURSE OF STUDY.

**FIRST YEAR.**—Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica and Dissecting.

**SECOND YEAR.**—Surgery, Obstetrics, Diseases of Women and Children, Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgical Anatomy.

**TEXT BOOKS.**—Anatomy, Gray; Physiology, Kirke; Chemistry, Steele; Materia Medica, Biddle; Surgery, Ashhurst; Theory and Practice, Harts-horne; Obstetrics, Leishman.

**BOOKS FOR REFERENCE.**—Theory and Practice, Flint; Physiology, Flint or Dalton; Surgery, Gross; Diseases of Women, Thomas; Diseases of Children, Meigs and Pepper; Dictionary, Dunglison.

#### TERMS:

Tuition, per term, in advance . \$30 00  
Material for practical Anatomy,  
at cost.

Graduating Fee..... 10 00

#### REQUISITES FOR ADMISSION.

Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age, of good moral character, and pass a satisfactory examination in the common English branches.

#### GRADUATION.

1st. To graduate, the candidates must have attained the age of twenty-one years.

2nd. He must have studied medicine two years, and attended two full courses of lectures, the last of which must have been at this institution.



3rd. He must pass a satisfactory written examination on all of the branches laid down in the course, and present an acceptable original thesis on some medical subject.

During the past year Anatomical, Physiological and Obstetrical Models and Charts have been purchased, and also a Cabinet of Materia Medica and Chemical apparatus.

Instruction will be given in Elementary Pharmacy and Toxicology. The teaching, which will consist of Lectures and daily recitations, will aim to be thorough and practical.

The third session opens September 30, 1878.

# THE CENTRAL TENNESSEE COLLEGE.

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This institution has the following courses of study :

## **THE ACADEMIC COURSE**

Furnishes a very complete English course, including Book-keeping, and common legal forms for transacting business.

## **THE NORMAL COURSE**

Is designed to prepare students for teaching—special attention being given to this subject.

## **THE PREPARATORY AND COLLEGE COURSES**

Embrace the usual studies of a classical education.

## **THE THEOLOGICAL COURSE**

Embraces studies in Exegetical, Historical, Systematic and Practical Theology. Students in this department are not required to pay tuition, and their other expenses will be made as low as practicable. All who enter this department must come recommended by the church to which they belong.

## **THE SCIENTIFIC COURSE**

Is the college studies, omitting the languages.

## **THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT**

Offers facilities for a full course of study in several branches of Medical science necessary to qualify students to the degree of M. D.

## **THE LAW DEPARTMENT**

Will furnish such instruction as will enable the student to practice in any of our courts.

## **INSTRUCTION IN VOCAL MUSIC**

Is given without extra charge. Instruction on the piano, with use of the instrument, \$3.00 per month.

## **INSTRUCTION GIVEN IN THE BIBLE DAILY,**

And all students are required to pass an examination on Bible history and doctrines, to graduate in any department.

All applicants for admission to any department must bring satisfactory evidence of good character.

## **TERMS :**

Board and Tuition, per month, (of four weeks).....	\$8 00
Washing, Lights and Fuel, per month, from.....	\$1 25 to 2 00

Students can board themselves.

All bills must be paid in advance.

Tuition in Literary Department, per month.....	.. \$ 1 00
Tuition in Medical Department, per session .....	.. 30 00
Tuition in Law Department, per session .....	.. 30 00

Through the kindness of the Superintendent, Col. J. W. Thomas, students coming over the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad can have reduced rates by applying to Rev. J. Braden.

For further information, address

**REV. J. BRADEN,**

■ NASHVILLE, TENN.



